

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A high voltage spark gap device ~~(7)~~ for a high-power electric generator, ~~said device being designed for high voltages and comprising:~~

an electric trigger system ~~(4, 6),~~; furthermore

at least two mutually spaced spherical main electrodes ~~(3)~~ ~~which in particular are spheres and~~ that cooperate pairwise,; and

~~means (1) to close the~~ for closing a current loop that are separated by a dielectric ~~(2)~~ from the main electrodes, wherein ~~characterized in that~~

the electric trigger system ~~(4, 6)~~ comprises as many trigger electrodes ~~(6)~~ as there are main electrodes ~~(3)~~ in the spark gap device, said trigger electrodes ~~(4)~~ being fitted with each including a protective insulator (4) and said trigger electrodes each located ~~being received in~~ a different main electrode ~~(3)~~ of the spark gap device.

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2. (Currently Amended) ~~Spark~~ The high voltage spark gap device ~~(7) for a high-power electric generator as claimed in~~ according to claim 21, characterized in that the spark gap ~~device~~ further comprising slides, wherein said slides hold said main electrodes ~~(3) are kept in place on the dielectric (2) by~~ means of slides ~~(8)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) A The high voltage spark gap device ~~for a high-power electric generator as claimed in~~ according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising means for urging the main electrodes ~~(3) may~~ to slide in the slides ~~(8) and may be~~ individually forced by means ~~(9) such as springs against the~~ dielectric ~~(2)~~.

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4. (Currently Amended) A The high voltage spark gap device ~~for a high-power electric generator as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising a spacer, wherein said device (7) ~~is~~ is a high-voltage, multi-gap spark device for operating in air at atmospheric pressure ~~or at higher pressure~~, ~~the a gap~~ between the main electrodes being controlled by a said spacer (10).

5. (Currently Amended) A The high voltage spark gap device (7) ~~for a high-power electric generator as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the dielectric (2) ~~consists of~~ comprises thin insulating layers.

6. (Currently Amended) The high voltage A spark gap device (7) ~~for a high-power electric generator as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the protecting insulator (4) ~~is provided by~~ comprises a portion of a high-voltage cable.

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7. (Currently Amended) The high voltageA spark gap device ~~for a high-power electric generator as claimed in according to~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the trigger electrode (6) ~~is~~ comprises a rigid tube.

8. (New) The high voltage spark gap device according to claim 3, wherein said means for urging each main electrode comprises a spring.

9. (New) The high voltage spark gap device according to claim 4, wherein said device is operative at a pressure higher than atmospheric pressure.